

- 1: Beals, Ralph Leon. Cherán: A Sierra Tarascan Village. Smithsonian Institution Institute of Social Anthropology, Publication No. 2. Washington, 1946.

Pp. x, 226; 8 plates, 19 text figures; 5 maps; 3 appendices

HRAF copy

[This monograph is a general ethnographic study of the community of Cherán, with its main emphases on technology, economics, the community, religion and ceremonial, and the individual and the culture. The data are given in detail throughout, with numerous illustrative extracts from the field notebooks. Two appendices give comparative material on the food plants and food from La Cañada, and on the ceremonial organization of Chilchota, both of which are also Tarascan in culture. A third appendix is a report on the maize from Cherán by Edgar Anderson. Material on the mayordomía and cargó has been placed in Category 796. Material on the municipio has been placed in Category 632. This study was done by Beals and the Institute of Social Anthropology in cooperation with the Escuela Nacional de Antropología as part of a larger program directed toward the study of the Tarascans of Michoacán. Beals is presently Professor of Anthropology at the University of California at Los Angeles. -- Analyst]

Field date: 1940-1941

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5

Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary

Processed in 1959

- 2: Carrasco, Pedro. Tarascan Folk Religion. New Orleans: Middle American Research Institute, Tulane University, Publication 17, 1952.

Pp. 64; preface; glossary; bibliography; index.

Yale: C67L T18 -952C

[This source is based primarily on field work in the village of Jarácuaro located on an island in Lake Pátzcuaro. The author, an ethnologist, gathered information from several other towns, Cherán and Tzintzuntzan in particular. The general purpose of this work is to show how changes in the social and economic structure of Mexico as a whole, and of the Tarascan area in particular, affected the Tarascan folk religion. The Tarascan "world view" is also clearly exemplified through their own ideas and beliefs about the origin and nature of the world, supernatural and natural elements, primary religious concepts and their distinctive folklore, as illustrated through many folk stories and tales. It should be noted that Jarácuaro is primarily a conservative village with only eight men out of a total population of 900 being agraristas (left wing political group) the remainder being sinarquistas (right wing conservative political group). The conservative element was also noted to be dominant in the villages of Cherán and Tzintzuntzan--Analyst]

Field date: 1945

Analyst: John Beierle

Evaluation: Ethnologist--4, 5

Processed in 1959

- 3: Beals, Ralph L., Pedro Carrasco, and Thomas McCorkle. Houses and House Use of the Sierra Tarascans. Smithsonian Institution, Institute of Social Anthropology Publication, No. 1. Washington, D.C., 1944.

Pp. x, 37; 8 plates

HRAF copy

[This paper by three prominent anthropologists, has two stated purposes: the scientific study of an important aspect of Tarascan culture and the application of anthropological knowledge to the solution of a practical problem--housing. In this study, the authors survey the different types of building materials, types of structures, modes of construction, furniture, utensils, interior decoration, material and construction costs, utilization and adequacy of the various types of buildings, the ceremonial and social functions related to the house, and the historical development of building types. The authors conclude by saying that for the majority of the inhabitants improvement of housing condition is not an economic problem but a problem of altering basic patterns of culture. Since the Tarascan troje (house) is really a storehouse, it has been marked for 343 (outbuildings). On the other hand, the torita and cocinas de pie derecho (kitchens) are marked for 342 (dwelling) because they are used for family living. --Analyst]

Field date: 1940-1942

Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Ethnologists-5

Processed in 1959

- 4: West, Robert C. Cultural Geography of the Modern Tarascan Area. Smithsonian Institution, Institute of Social Anthropology, Publication No. 7. Washington, 1948.

Pp. vi, 78; preface; phonetic note; bibliography; 14 photographic plates; 6 text figures; 21 maps

HRAF copy

[This source was prepared by the author under the auspices of the Institute of Social Anthropology, for the purpose of establishing a general background for other studies made in the Tarascan area by the author's co-workers. This study is primarily a descriptive report of the cultural geography of the Tarascan area, with occasional elaboration upon historical information. The primary focus of the author is on the material culture of the people, with particular emphasis on agriculture, trade, handicrafts, and the economy of the present day Tarascans. The author also attempts to show how areal recession has taken place since the first culture contacts with the Spanish.

This source was primarily compiled from field work done by the author during April, May and June, 1946. The author claims to have visited all Tarascan towns, with the exception of Cheranátzicurin, and approximately

4: West, Robert C.

two-thirds of the total time spent in field work was done in the Sierra region. Historical library research was also done by the author for this study.

Occasional unnumbered subtitles are entered when the data refer principally to one or more of the cultural sub-areas of Sierra, Lake Pátzcuaro, La Canãda, or Mestizo Tarascans. --Analyst]

Field date: 1946

Analyst: John Beierle

Evaluation: Geographer-5

Processed in 1959

- 5: Beals, Ralph L. and Pedro Carrasco. Games of the Mountain Tarascans. American Anthropologist, n.s., Vol. 46, pp. 516-522. Menasha, Wisconsin: American Anthropological Association, 1944.

Yale: Nk10 Am37 II46

[This article describes in detail a number of athletic and board games which are considered to be at least partially of indigenous origin. Data on equipment and procedure are clearly presented. The introductory paragraphs relate the study to others on similar customs in other American cultures. --Analyst]

Field date: 1940-1941
Analyst: George R. Bedell

Evaluation: Ethnologists-5
Processed in 1960

- 6: Friedrich, Paul W. A Tarascan Cacicazgo: Structure and Function. In Verne F. Ray, ed., Systems of Political Control and Bureaucracy in Human Societies: Proceedings of the 1958 Annual Spring Meeting of the American Ethnological Society, pp. 23-29. Seattle, 1958.

HRAF copy

[The cacicazgo is the social complex supporting "a type of informal...government operating to enforce the partially arbitrary control of an association of individuals under one leader, the cacique." In this study, the author discusses the various social groups which are active in community politics, their relationship to those holding formal office, to political organization on local, state and national levels, and the methods by which the cacique and his followers exercise control. Because the activities of the groups and persons discussed are of various types, often concurrent, much of the information in this source has been marked for the general two digit category 66 rather than more specific ones.--Analyst]

Field date: 1955-56

Analyst: George R. Bedell

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5

Processed in 1960

- 7: Kaplan, Bernice A. Changing Functions of the Huanancha Dance at the Corpus Christi Festival in Paracho, Michoacán, Mexico. *Journal of American Folklore*, Vol. 64, pp. 383-392. Philadelphia: American Folklore Society, 1951.

Yale: Nkg10 J82 64

[This is a study of cultural change in festival customs in a particular community, with emphasis on the enduring form of a dance by a group of young girls. The author gives a background and history of the dance, and then a full description of costumes, accessories, selection and training of the dancers, and the dance itself. The author sees the conservation of traditional forms whose meanings are no longer understood by the performers as an attempt to maintain a "reminder of the past."--Analyst]

Field date: 1948

Analyst: George R. Bedell

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5

Processed in 1960

- 8: Kaplan, Bernice A. Ethnic Identification in an Indian Mestizo Community: I. Socio-Cultural Factors. Phylon, vol. 14, pp. 179-186. Atlanta: Atlanta University, 1953.

Yale: Ntj10 P53 14

[This source and 9: Lasker, this file, are complementary parts of a study made in Paracho, Michoacan. The two present evidence that ethnic identification in this community is based primarily on cultural and linguistic factors rather than biological ones. The data given include various aspects of status evaluation by the inhabitants, a number of demographic statistics, and the author's evaluation of the information collected. --Analyst]

Field date: 1948

Analyst: George R. Bedell

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5

Processed in 1960

- 9: Lasker, Gabriel W. Ethnic Identification in an Indian Mestizo Community: II. Racial Characteristics. Phylon, Vol. 14, pp. 187-190. Atlanta: Atlanta University, 1953.

Yale: Ntj10 P53 14

[This is the second part of a study described in 8: Kaplan, this file. This part presents data resulting from anthropometry and non-measured observations of physical characteristics of the same individuals from whom Kaplan obtained her information. The author's information support the conclusions in 8]Kaplan that ethnic identification in this community is based on social, not biological, traits. --Analyst]

Field date: 1948

Analyst: George R. Bedell

Evaluation: Physical Anthropologist-5

Processed in 1960

- 10: Beals, Ralph L. and Evelyn Hatcher. The Diet of a Tarascan Village. América Indígena, vol. 3, pp. 295-304. México: Instituto Indigenista Interamericano, 1943.

Yale: C51 In8c 3

[This article presents the results of a study of diet in the town of Cheran, Michoacan. (See also 1: Beals, this file). The authors had the cooperation of several families of varying economic status in collecting a record of food consumed over a fifteen day period, of typical menus, and of a list of all products consumed in the region. On the basis of this data, the diet was analyzed and the results presented in several tables. The authors recognize certain shortcomings in their data, but nevertheless consider general conclusions as to the adequacy of the diet to be valid. --Analyst]

Field date: 1941-1942
Analyst: George R. Bedell

Evaluation: Ethnologists-4, 5
Processed in 1960

- 11: Boyd, Maurice. Eight Tarascan Legends. Contributions of the Florida State Museum, Social Sciences, Number 3. Gainesville, Florida, 1958.

Pp. viii, 36; 3 plates.

Yale: C67L T18 958B.

[This book is a compilation of the texts of eight Tarascan legends and myths referring to various phases of Tarascan origins and traditional and post-Conquest political history. This report is ethnography in its purest sense, with negligible annotation or commentary. By not using any specific analytical framework, the author leaves the reader with a rather fragmentary idea of the relation of mythical content to actual historical phenomena, Tarascan sociocultural institutions, and to the nature of myth and legend in directing and channelling social behavior. The author's main conclusion, that these legends are vital for socializing the young to Tarascan ethical values in view of the rapid changes the society has undergone, seems rather obvious and superficial.]

Field date: 1953

Analyst: Gilbert Winer

Evaluation: Historian-4, 5

Processed in 1987